

Message Text

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APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

NSC - MR. OAKLEY (SUBS)

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

NEA-ALATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 013261

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: KARAME'S RESIGNATION

KUWAIT PASS BAGHDAD

1. ACCORDING TO SOME PRESS REPORTS, PRESIDENT FRANGIE
HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT PRIME MINISTER KARAME'S RESIGNATION
AND KARAME HIMSELF MAY BE RECONSIDERING HIS DECISION WHILE

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CONSULTING WITH OTHER MUSLIM MODERATES AND JUMBLATT. IN

OUR JUDGMENT, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE THAT KARAME REMAIN SINCE HE IS VIRTUALLY THE ONLY MODERATE MUSLIM WITH THE PRESTIGE, EXPERIENCE AND GRIT TO OFFER EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP AT THIS SENSITIVE JUNCTURE FROM THE PRIMIN'S OFFICE. IN OUR JUDGMENT TOO, KARAME'S DISAPPEARANCE FROM OFFICE WILL SIGNAL A SIGNIFICANT HARDENING OF CONFESSIONAL LINES, WITH ALL THAT THIS IMPLIES.

2. THEREFORE, IF YOU BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL AND NOT RPT NOT COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN ANY WAY, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH KARAME TO CONVEY THE USG HOPE THAT HE WILL CONSIDER FAVORABLY THE APPEALS COMING TO HIM FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS IN LEBANON AND REMAIN IN OFFICE DURING THE PRESENT, SENSITIVE PERIOD. YOU SHOULD REMIND HIM OF THE MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT SENT TO HIM ON NOVEMBER 6 BY THE SECRETARY AND SAY THAT, AS THE LEADER AMONG THE MUSLIMS HAVING PROBABLY THE GREATEST PRESTIGE AND AUTHORITY, HIS DEPARTURE FROM OFFICE WILL IN OUR VIEW INTERRUPT AND HURT EFFORTS TOWARDS PACIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION, WHICH HE HAS PURSUED WITH GREAT DEDICATION.

3. AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU ALSO MAY ASK HIM FOR SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THE USG MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN REGARD TO THE LEBANESE SITUATION WITHOUT, HOWEVER, INDICATING IN ANY WAY WHETHER WE WOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT ANY SUGGESTIONS HE OFFERS. KISSINGER

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